

03040206-090
(Waccamaw River)

General Description

Watershed 03040206-090 (formerly 03040206-091) is located in Horry County and consists primarily of the **Waccamaw River** and its tributaries from where it crosses the South Carolina/North Carolina state line to Simpson Creek. The watershed occupies 39,976 acres of the Lower Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Yauhannah-Ogeechee-Mouzon-Johnston-Meggett series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.17; the slope of the terrain averages 2%, with a range of 0-3%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 39.6% forested wetland, 38.6% forested land, 13.6% scrub/shrub land, 4.6% agricultural land, 2.8% urban land, and 0.8% water.

This portion of the Waccamaw River accepts drainage from Indigo Branch, Bellamy Branch, Cold Water Branch, and Meetinghouse Branch (Mill Swamp). There are a few ponds (totaling 11.3 acres) and a total of 67.5 stream miles in this watershed. The Waccamaw River is classified FW* (dissolved oxygen not less than 4.0 mg/l and pH between 5.0 and 8.5) and the remaining streams in the watershed are classified FW.

Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
MD-124	P	FW*	WACCAMAW RIVER AT SC 9 7.0 MILES W OF CHERRY GROVE

Waccamaw River (MD-124) - Aquatic life uses are not supported due to occurrences of copper, chromium, and zinc in excess of the aquatic life acute standards, including high concentrations of chromium and zinc measured in 1995, a high concentration of zinc measured in 1996, and a high concentration of chromium measured in 1998. In addition, there was a significant decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen and the detection of chlordane in the water column in 1996. There is also a significant increasing trend in pH. A significant decreasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are fully supported; however, there is a significant increasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the Waccamaw River within this watershed (see advisory p.187).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM

FACILITY NAME

PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)

COMMENT

NPDES#

TYPE

LIMITATION

WACCAMAW RIVER

GSW&SA/LONGS WWTP

PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.2

PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 1.0 (PROPOSED)

PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 1.2 (PROPOSED)

WQL FOR DO,TRC,NH3N,BOD5

SC0040878

MINOR DOMESTIC

WATER QUALITY

Nonpoint Source Management Program

Mining Activities

MINING COMPANY

MINE NAME

PERMIT #

MINERAL

FOX BROTHERS, INC.

PIT #4

0790-51

SAND/CLAY

Water Supply

Portions of this watershed fall within the Waccamaw Capacity Use Area and large groundwater uses must be reported (see Capacity Use Program p.23).

Growth Potential

There is a moderate to high potential for growth in this watershed, which contains the City of North Myrtle Beach and is in close proximity to the City of Myrtle Beach. The highest growth, in the form of residential and commercial development, will occur in the area east of the Waccamaw River, which has water infrastructure. The S.C. Hwy. 90 corridor, which runs east of the river, also has water available.

Moderate growth is seen for the S.C. Hwy. 9 corridor, which crosses the watershed and the Waccamaw River. The S.C. Hwy. 9 corridor has both water and sewerage, and an increase in commercial development in particular is predicted for this corridor. Outside of the municipal areas, the watershed is primarily agricultural, timberland, and residential uses.